IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 18-40 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 10 and 13-15 to read as follows:

1. (Amended) A memory card for storing data written thereto from an external device, comprising:

a substantially rectangular card body having first and second substantially rectangular surfaces and edges between said surfaces;

terminals provided in the vicinity of one of the edges between said surfaces and on one of said substantially rectangular surfaces for inputting data from or outputting data to said external device;

a storage device disposed in said card body for storing said data inputted from said terminals;

an electric switch located on one of said surfaces and operable to a state to prevent the data stored in said storage device from being erased; and

a control circuit electrically connected between said terminals and said storage device for writing data from an external device to said storage device, for reading out stored data to said terminals from said storage device and for supplying to said terminals a status signal representing the state of said switch.

10. (Amended) A memory card for storing data written thereto from an external device, comprising:

a substantially rectangular card body having first and second substantially rectangular surfaces and edges between said surfaces;

terminals provided in the vicinity of one of the edges between said surfaces and on one of said substantially rectangular surfaces for inputting data from or outputting data to said external device;

a storage device disposed in said card body for storing said data inputted from said terminals;

a switch located on one of the edges between said surfaces and operable to a state to prevent the data stored in said storage device from being erased; and

a control circuit electrically connected between said terminals and said storage device for writing data from an external device to said storage device, for reading out stored data to said terminals from said storage device and for supplying to said terminals a status signal representing the state of said switch, said control circuit being responsive to a read status instruction signal from said external device to supply said status signal to said terminals.

--13. (Amended) The memory card of claim 10 wherein said control circuit is responsive to a write instruction signal from said external device to write data to said storage device; and wherein said read status instruction signal precedes said write instruction signal. --

--14. (Amended) The memory card of claim 10 wherein said control circuit is responsive to an erase instruction signal from said external device to erase data stored in said storage device; and wherein said read status instruction signal precedes said erase instruction signal. --

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